

Tropical Treasures from Mainbernheim

NATURAL PRODUCTS. A Mainbernheim family of entrepreneurs has been focusing on the production of organic products for decades: mattresses, pillows, upholstery and food.



Somilareka Dissanayake (l.) with his wife Cornelia Gaubitz and their two children Don Kevin and Donna Patricia Gaubitz in the Mainbernheim exhibition room for healthy and pollution-free lying

In the past, the Mainbernheim-based company "MAL Germany GmbH & Co KG" in the district of Kitzingen was a well-known name exclusively in B2B markets and at international organic trade fairs. Today, the organic products, which are strictly tested for harmful substances, have also become more and more popular with end consumers: Natural mattresses, quilts, cushions and upholstery fabrics, produced in their own production facilities and sewn locally "Made in Mainbernheim". Only in the course of time was a company sign attached to the building of the old-established company. About five years ago, the family business broadened its range of products and added a second mainstay - certified organic food around coconut processing - and is now also active in the organic food industry.

Like a Large Family

Behind MAL Germany is the Sri Lankan-born entrepreneur Somilareka Gaubitz-Dissanayake, who leads his team of employees "like a big family with flat hierarchies". Since the foundation of the company in 1985 his wife, Cornelia Gaubitz from Mainbernheim, has been at his side. His son Don Kevin Gaubitz and his daughter Donna Patricia Gaubitz are now also firmly integrated into the family business.

By the way: In the Sri Lankan birthplace of her father, MAL translates "purity of flowers".

"From the very beginning, it was important to me that we produce and supply clean products, because I believe it is unacceptable that goods are produced in Asia, sometimes under conditions that are hazardous to health and inhumane to human beings, and then shipped to Europe and the rest of the world, because air and water know no borders. This was and is the philosophy of the company founder. Long before there were any eco-labels or the term "bio" in Germany, the founder did pioneering work for the production and trade of natural products: "We started already at the end of the 1980s with European analysis laboratories in England to create first standards for raw materials and for the production of mattresses and upholstered furniture. In the meantime, his organic mattresses have been fully certified and have won several awards - from cultivation to the finished product. The company is in possession of up to ten different seals of approval, which stand for quality, but also for transparency and traceability from cultivation on the organic plantations to the final product of the processed natural products.



Certification Manager Natalia Fahmer presents the multi-layered certified inner life of the Mainbernheim organic mattresses.

The second pillar of the company, the organic food trade, has been managed by Don Kevin Gaubitz for around five years. "We supply the specialist trade with organic products from coconut processing as well as other tropical fruits and spices for healthy nutrition. Don Kevin Gaubitz has a special passion for his own creations. These creations are very popular with consumers, such as curry coconut milk in various flavours or gluten-free, vegan baking mixes for muffins. The approximately 50 to 70 different organic products are all produced locally in Sri Lanka. "Naturally purely organic and strictly controlled up to the cultivation.

Bridge to Sri Lanka

With this range of products, the company founder is also building a bridge from Germany to Sri Lanka: there, he personally knows about 60 farming families who run co-plantations in a sustainable mixed culture and whose harvest is intended for export to Germany. Through resource-conserving cultivation, environmentally friendly production and fair working conditions, the Lower Franconian organic company supports these cultivation areas in Sri Lanka's so-called "coconut triangle".



Don Kevin Gaubitz in front of a selection of food products for the organic trade from Sri Lanka

The owner of the company says: "The products, such as papaya, pineapple, bananas and medicinal herbs, which are also grown in organic quality, are also produced for local sales and self-sufficiency and are therefore an additional source of income for the small farmers. They also receive fair producer prices and higher wages than usual on the market. The smallholders are also supported by fair trade premiums and the company's own "MAL Social Fair Fund", which enables various social projects. The product range of MAL Germany GmbH & Co KG is delivered to Western and Eastern Europe and the USA. The range of products extends from raw materials to semi-finished and finished products. This applies to all business areas. A further mainstay of the family business is the factory outlet for organic mattresses.